

The Library Assistant

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HON. EDITOR: J. F. W. BRYON
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Centenary Conference

Presidential Introduction

THE WEEKEND Conference, as a new venture of the Association, amply justified the high hopes of Council and I, for one, look forward to seeing similar conferences being arranged annually.

The experiment of dividing the discussions of the Conference into syndicates, each with a leader, worked admirably. It enabled all who wished to speak to do so and added to the pleasant informality which seemed to be appreciated by all.

Two things impressed me above all at the Conference; the extremely competent and thoughtful contributions to the discussions made by some of the youngest of our members and the remarkable way in which the same conclusions were reached independently by all the syndicates. The first is an encouraging sign of the keen interest now being taken by our younger members, whilst the second showed that the views reached by the Conference were majority views and can be acted upon with confidence where further action is necessary.

It soon became obvious that future conferences of this kind will be even more fruitful if one topic is discussed and, if this can be linked with practical study before the conference, the benefit gained by participants will be even greater. As to the contribution these present discussions will make to the profession generally, I leave members to judge from the conclusions outlined here.

Finally, I must thank all those who in any way contributed to the success of the Conference. It has been for me a great personal pleasure to share in the proceedings.

F.C.T.

First Session: "To establish what surveys relating to librarianship might usefully be undertaken by the Association at the national or divisional level." (Chairman, Mr. J. C. Harrison). It was recommended:—

(1) That the Library Association be asked to carry out a detailed and critical statistical survey of the whole country's library services.

(2) That all A.A.L. Divisions be asked to compile a register of library methods similar to the *Students' Guide* of the East Midland Division. It

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was suggested that the value of such surveys would be enhanced by the inclusion of an index to the libraries represented.

(3) That the Association consider the investigation at some future date of the application of the new grading schemes for public library staffs.

(4) That the Association make immediate enquiry of the Library Association concerning the compilation of surveys of facilities for professional training: that, in Branch areas where the survey has not yet been started, the secretaries be asked to take no further steps until a uniform questionnaire has been drawn up.

(5) That an announcement of existing facilities for study for the alternative sections of the new syllabus (Registration and Final) be included in Part II of the *A.A.L. Guide*.

(6) That the Association approach the R.E.E.C. of the Library Association, requesting the introduction of a Thesis, with a view to encouraging research by Fellows of the Association.

(7) That the Association compile and publish a list of all facilities at present available for international exchange and study abroad.

(8) That the Library Association be asked to conduct an early investigation into the availability of posts for chartered librarians, and the number of assistants becoming qualified: that this should be done before the establishment of further full-time schools of librarianship is authorised.

J.C.H.

Second Session: "Library publicity from the national, regional and divisional viewpoint." (Chairman, Mr. E. V. Corbett). Summary of conclusions:—

(1) The basis of all publicity is dependent upon the bookstocks of the individual libraries and the personal service which the staff are able and qualified to give. The majority of public libraries have a long way to go before perfection is reached in these directions.

(2) The most effective publicity is that originating at local level and developed by the librarian and his staff in their day to day relations with readers, local institutions, societies and other organisations in the neighbourhood.

(3) The Chief Librarian, through his committee, is in fact the person who can and should exert the utmost influence for the better development of his own service. In short, any improvement in library provision depends mainly on the sum total effort of chiefs, as exerted through their individual committees.

(4) There is room for increased publicity in connection with library work with children and in the schools. Alarm was expressed at the number of children who drift away from the libraries after leaving school. It was thought that this subject was worthy of further survey.

(5) Publicity on a national scale failed to arouse the enthusiasm that might have been expected, largely because all present realised its financial implications. While there was some feeling that the Library Association might usefully provide a P.R.O. or reorganise existing staff to this end, any suggestion that a full-scale P.R. Department should be set up was opposed

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if this would entail increase in individual subscriptions to the Library Association. National advertising of the library service was felt to be largely the financial responsibility of authorities rather than of librarians.

(6) The publicity material at present issued by the Library Association was discussed and generally approved, especially the subject booklists and the centenary publicity. The "Centenary Assessment" was welcomed and it was suggested that publicity directed to library authorities would be more valuable than that directed to the individual.

(7) Several speakers thought that the N.B.L. had stolen a march on the Library Association, and that this body is doing much of the work which our own professional body might have undertaken.

(8) While the Library Association may not be able to interest the B.B.C. directly, they might encourage more individual librarians to submit scripts for broadcasting.

(9) Finally, the various booklists issued by librarians came under review, and although lists of new books no doubt serve a purpose, it was generally conceded that the subject lists, such as those issued by Glasgow, the County Libraries Section, etc., were of far greater permanent value and more libraries would do well to produce such booklists.

E.V.C.

Third Session: "What rationalisation of public library routines and processes is possible and desirable?" (Chairman, Mr. W. Tynemouth).
Summary of conclusions:—

The syndicates discussed notes which covered the routine processes connected with all sides of public library practice. General agreement was reached in many cases (e.g., the need for uniform charging), but there were at least two schools of thought about registration and accession methods.

Stress was laid upon the need for planned and efficient staffing (as it had been in the first session), and on the need for variety in routine tasks where these are done by professional assistants in training. There was some criticism of "amateur" typists and poster artists in systems large enough to have this work done by non-professional staff.

Opinion was sharply against a recent decision of an august body of librarians to increase and complicate the stamping of marks of ownership.

It was suggested that meetings of Chiefs should be followed by meetings of heads of departments—in the same way that Foreign Ministers hand over details to their deputies and experts, whilst retaining a "Molotovian" veto.

It was also suggested that working parties should investigate methods of carrying out individual processes, instead of attempting a survey by questionnaire.

W.T.

Conclusions

The success of the conference can be estimated by the fact that several towns have already offered to accommodate next year's, it being assumed that there will be another then. The President has indicated the chief conclusion—the desirability of discussing several aspects of the same topic at the different sessions and syndicates, rather than several subjects, perhaps

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with preliminary discussion in divisions. This would require an early decision concerning the holding of a 1951 conference, and the main subject to be discussed. The subject of the Conference may not be left without reference to the enjoyable entertainment provided by the Greater London Division on the Friday evening, to the thoroughness of preparation of the syndicate chairmen's discussion notes, to the efficiency of the staff work, or to the comfort and cuisine at Nutford House. Those who took part in the visit to the House of Commons Library owe further gratitude to the authorities responsible.

Annual General Meeting

Well over 200 members left Westminster pier by launch, and were joined at Greenwich by others. The combined party travelled by coach to Charlton House, where the Annual General Meeting was conducted with a pleasing absence of fuss. The Presidential Address, delivered on this occasion, is printed below. Thereafter the party returned by coach to the Maritime Museum, where tea was taken, and was followed by a conducted tour of the Museum, the Queen's House, the Painted Hall and the Chapel. The week-end was concluded by a return to Westminster by launch.

The Library Profession in 1950

F. C. TIGHE

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS DELIVERED TO THE 55TH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING OF THE A.A.L. AT GREENWICH, 2ND APRIL, 1950.

1950, as the Centenary year of the passing of the first Public Library Act is a useful point at which to assess some of the accomplishments of the library profession within the present century and to look forward to some of the problems which lie ahead.

1939 marked the end of a thriving period of development for public libraries and within the period from 1920 to that date a remarkable increase took place in the provision of libraries and an even more remarkable increase in the use of those facilities by readers. The main development took place in the material resources of buildings already in use, but, as the 1930's dawned, new buildings came in reasonably appreciable numbers to swell the rising total of issues. Book funds, sad to say, were, in the main, inadequate—as they are to-day.

1945 found the public library movement hampered by the inevitable book shortage, made worse by the curious working of the paper control. Far worse was the fact that many libraries had suffered material damage as a result of the war, whilst others had undergone the bitter experience of losing valuable space to more essential departments. On all sides costs had risen and yet the demand being made on the restricted services offered were almost too great. This position has gradually eased until, at the present time, the service offered throughout the country is as good as willing personnel can make it within the resources and book funds available.

And yet, libraries emerged from the war with one tremendous advantage, the full effect of which the profession has not yet estimated; the recognition

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of the public library service by the public as an essential service. This is of the utmost significance to us, for it can be exploited and brings within reach of the profession the declared aim of an adequate library service throughout the country.

Post-war development in the profession has been rapid (in the shift and change of examination syllabuses possibly too rapid) and, while it is no part of this address to be a mere historical survey, the development must be noted. Probably the most significant has been the establishment of schools for full-time tuition in librarianship. Already they are having a marked effect on professional training and the efforts of the teachers are being watched with the greatest interest. In the field of bibliographical tools, the establishment of the British National Bibliography as a co-operative effort of all connected with books and libraries is a magnificent example of the co-operation developed by the profession and about which the outside world knows little. For instance, no side of local government has anything comparable to place against the inter-lending scheme now operating, which includes the majority of libraries, both public and private, in this country. There has been, too, the development, commercially, of a central cataloguing service, a scheme which deserves well of libraries. Regionally, there has been the development of subject specialisation by libraries within an area, ensuring the preservation of much material which would otherwise be lost in the need to make room in over-crowded buildings for new stock—another instance, if proof were needed, of our capacity as a profession to look beyond our own four walls in the service of knowledge and make it available for all.

The general public is still apt to regard librarianship as a technique whose limits are fixed, like that of the sword-swallower, and yet there is the liveliest interest in techniques proceeding within the profession, all of which is aimed at cutting out any unnecessary barrier between the public and the book and the enjoyment of the book: and this is to the good, for such preoccupation is evidence to ourselves, if not to others, that the profession is alive. Microfilm, microcard, punched card, filmstrip—do these mean anything to our public? And yet, it is quite certain that in some special way all these developments are to figure in the library service to come.

The professional association in these post-war years has had a heavy access of new members and the organisation has been altered to deal with the new problems which have arisen. New bye-laws have made quite radical changes in the method of representation of the membership on the Council of the Library Association and even more radical changes in the control and direction of examination policy. The effect of this latter change is, as yet, certainly not fully understood by the profession and the operation of the new system will be closely watched by this Association and its representatives on the Library Association Council.

It is difficult ever to foretell what may lie ahead and fate is equally as inscrutable in the case of a profession as it is in the case of an individual. Nevertheless, there have been certain developments which, if interpreted aright, can be taken as a reasonably safe guide to the future.

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The first to which I wish to draw attention is that the age of the individual overshadowing his contemporaries is passing and this is as true of the library profession as it is of others. As has been pointed out, it is now beyond the ability of one man to write expertly on all phases and facets of library organisation and administration; his place must be taken by a team, each individual member writing within his own field and the collected work forming the manual of practice. This point can be further developed when one looks for possible advances in library organisation and realises that all recent developments have come about largely as the result of the work of a committee or team of librarians. An excellent instance of this is the work of the Association of Metropolitan Chief Librarians, which has been quite remarkable in initiating particular researches and of piloting co-operative schemes of the greatest significance for the public library service, notably in the field of subject specialisation. Nor is this development to be deplored, for what is needed now is the raising up to the level of the few adequate services, of the majority of urban systems and this is best directed by regional advisory committees of this kind.

The change in policy regarding examinations, in removing it from the field of professional politics, is most significant, being an indication, I believe, that the profession realises it must consolidate the gain in public esteem, which is best done by the maintenance of high standards of professional education. It is probably a truism to say that the strength of a profession is in direct relation to its teaching practice and there is every hope that with the establishment of library schools some advance will be made to give the profession the technical stability it must have. The schools must not be allowed, however, to develop in a vacuum and it is to be hoped that all will be established in close relation to large library systems which can offer the bibliographical resources so necessary to students and make possible the practical study of library organisation and administration. A note of caution must be sounded here in view of the tendency to create more schools than the flow of students can fill and surely there is also need to allow lecturers and heads of schools sufficient time to direct research on topics not directly related to examination subjects.

There has been a tendency in the past for individual librarians to demand of the professional association much more positive action than that body has been prepared to take, particularly in the field of public relations. The reasoning behind much of this demand has been the desire of individuals to have their own status raised, which, I submit, can never happen until the individual by his own professional standards and education can command the esteem of the public and enhanced status will surely result from that. This apart, there is a growing need for correction of misstatements in the press on professional topics and for the fostering of the demand for a good library service, at a national level, which can be done only by the professional association.

Side by side with the full-time library schools there is the part-time oral tuition-work carried out largely by librarians in their own immediate locality. It is impossible to speak too highly of the splendid way in which professional education has been assisted by the labours of these members. In

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some areas, however, there is still need for further facilities and in all areas the highest standard of tuition must be insisted upon if students are to have a reasonable chance of passing examinations.

By far the most important factor in education has, however, been the correspondence courses arranged by the Association of Assistant Librarians, and these courses are taken by the majority of students sitting for examinations. Standard outline courses are now being introduced for all subjects and the first standard courses have been the subject of most favourable comment. These courses are likely to be the main-stay of professional education for some long time to come.

Although one may be cautious in estimating the future development of public libraries there is no need for such caution in considering the problems which face the profession now and in the immediate future, for most are evident and the others are about to make themselves felt in no uncertain terms.

The most important in the view of the majority of the profession is most certainly that of salaries. Negotiations are at the moment in progress with the appropriate bodies and, as yet, no result has been announced. Although we may feel that we deserve a better application of charter scales than is now generally the case, in view of the rulings given earlier to other professions, it would be most unwise for us to be very sanguine. What is most certain is that the inferior position enjoyed by most library staffs in the matter of gradings compared with other staffs in the same authority will not easily be redressed. This situation links up directly with the quality of staffs now being recruited into the profession.

Over the whole field of local government there is a lack of suitable entrants to the various professions, particularly of boys. This is due, in a large measure, to the prospect of a term of military service, which has a most unsettling effect on boys who would otherwise, at the age of 18, begin their studies in the profession they intend to follow. When one adds to this the awkward hours generally worked by library staffs, which are an undoubted deterrent to the prospective new entrant, there is little wonder that the number of entrants to libraries, boys and girls alike, leaves much to be desired. This problem of awkward hours which no other department of an authority would care to work must be faced. It is no answer to say "it has always been so." Some way must be found to compensate staff financially for choosing to work such times as make social life difficult and concentrated study for examinations well nigh impossible.

Welfare provision for staffs still leaves much to be desired generally, provision, that is, of rest rooms and facilities for meals to be eaten during meal breaks. This Association is concerned at the present position in this matter and is on the point of conducting a survey of welfare provision for staffs throughout the country. It is hoped that the survey will enable standards to be arrived at for different types and numbers of staffs, which can then be recommended for adoption by authorities.

At this point, I wish to draw attention to a quite serious problem which

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is about to arise and to which no attention has been directed by the profession. Immediately after the war, in common with other professions, there was a scarcity of trained staff for professional posts, in municipal, university and special libraries. There was, at the same time, a great increase in the number of students taking the examinations of the Library Association. This increase of students was welcomed, since it ensured the supply of trained personnel at a later date for the vacant posts. I suggest that the position is now rapidly changing and in a very short time the number of newly qualified people will overtake wastage and will exceed the posts available. Unlike other professions, the librarian finds his largest field of opportunity in municipal work and there are relatively few posts elsewhere to attract him. It follows then that a surplus of trained personnel over posts available can easily arise and such a position is not likely to be to the advantage of the profession, or the individual. Some action on the part of the professional body to control this situation is clearly necessary.

One outstanding feature of the post-war period was the attempt by many authorities to cast the librarian as a glorified entertainments officer. Without attempting to discuss what is still regarded by many as controversial, that is, what extra mural activities should be undertaken by the librarian, it is pertinent to point out that less is being heard to-day of these suggestions. At a time when some authorities have yet to spend as much as a 6d. rate on the whole library service, it is surprising that they are encouraged to spend up to this amount on entertainment which usually can only be enjoyed by a fraction of the ratepayers. It is hoped that the Library Bill which one day may pass on to the Statute Book will effect some measure of help to the poorer authorities to enable them to provide a reasonable library service; a service which even by to-day's standards is used by seventeen million readers.

To-day finds the majority of authorities having plans for the expansion of their service and the rebuilding of existing libraries but forced by national necessity to delay putting them into operation. Is it too late in this centenary year to ask if an architectural competition could not be organised? For a small sum the interest of the general public could be roused and ideas of design made available to those authorities who hope to erect new libraries.

What part can the Association of Assistant Librarians be expected to play in the future development of the profession? I suggest that its main role will continue to be in the field in which it has been most successful, that of professional education; in the provision of correspondence courses, and the publication of text books. Within the profession it will, of course, continue to be a "ginger group" and a platform for the younger librarians who have not yet reached the ranks of chief librarians. Above all, it will continue to watch over the interests of all library assistants.

Finally, it is the prerogative of youth to be critical of its elders and to be vocal in its demands for privilege, but we must guard against purely destructive criticism and have regard to the unwritten law of any professional association worthy of the name, that there are no rights without duties.

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Outcrop - IV

R. L. COLLISON

Mr. R. Derrick Carter (Librarian, British Launderers' Research Association) says that there is an excellent Reference Books Section in the *Saturday Review of Literature* (January 21, 1950, pages 35-43 and 46). The activities of the famous map-making firm of Rand McNally are first described, followed by an article addressed to the private reader by Dr. Louis Shores describing basic reference works and reviewing twelve recent reference books—Webster's *Geographical Dictionary*, Haydn and Fuller's *Thesaurus of Book Digests*, etc., concluding with a briefly annotated list of eighty-seven reference works published in 1949. Mr. Carter also draws attention to "A guide to Norwegian books in British libraries," by Harald L. Tveteraas (*Norseman*, Sept.-Oct., 1948), the purpose of which is (1) to help Norwegians and British research workers to gain access to Norwegian books in Britain; (2) to give Norwegians a brief introduction to British librarianship; and (3) to act as a guide to Danish, Icelandic and Swedish literature for libraries which have Norwegian books. The largest collection if, of course, in the British Museum, but there are other important sources in St. Andrew's, Glasgow, Leeds University College, and at Oxford. A classified list is given of the best known collections in special libraries.

"Looking after your wallsheets," by Elizabeth Wild (*Looking and Listening*, v. 4, no. 1, Jan., 1950, page 13) discusses, says Miss Elizabeth Budgett, Assistant, Froebel Educational Institute Library), the possibility of having them mounted, the different kinds of cabinets, classification, and the usefulness of a central collection for schools in the public library. Miss Budgett also describes "The habit of reading and the rural grammar school," by C. E. N. Watts (*New Era*, Feb., 1950, pages 29-30), which is a report on a questionnaire of thirty questions sent to 150 homes to assess the amount of reading done by children attending the Oxfordshire Grammar School and also that done by their parents.

Mr. Percy S. Baldwin (Branch Librarian, Barnoldswick, West Riding) writes that as a reminder of what children's reading may mean, Elizabeth Bowen's "Out of a book" (*Orion*, volume 3) may briefly refresh our conception of the subject. We may never know for how many of our children reading is so important as it was to Miss Bowen, but if only one of them can write one day as well as she does we shall have served them well. Although it is no more than a gesture, a pointing the way by one who has travelled the road, Miss Bowen shows that the journey of the reader is from "virgin susceptibility" to a "refined and trained" taste. The magical days when self and story were one must give way to the exertion of the critical faculty, although best-sellers "play on a magic gone stale."

From "Frontier on the Potomac," by Jonathan Daniels (New York, Macmillan, 1946, pages 96-108), Mr. T. J. Millican (Headquarters, Kent County) draws some interesting sidelights on the Library of Congress, the chapter (significantly headed "A comet in a vault"), dealing mainly with the extraordinary changes wrought by Archibald MacLeish during his five

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years as Librarian. There were one-and-a-half million books to be catalogued when he took up his post with the vision of making the Library "a city of the mind." The following is taken from a description of staff conferences at which the reorganisation of the library was discussed: "They were not, I should note, the most successful meetings I can recall," Macleish said later. "One or two of the more articulate of my older colleagues approached the discussion in the spirit of the senior benches at a faculty meeting; change was undesirable, and any discussion that might lead to change was in doubtful taste. The Library . . . was too big and too old—above all, too old—to ask itself what it was doing and why and for what purpose." Of Dr. Putnam, MacLeish's predecessor, and of Dr. Luther Evans, the present librarian, the author also writes, besides defending librarians as a class against what he says is a current American notion that they are "a people with a predilection for acne in adult life, with complexions which acquire the grayness of scurrying gray bookbugs."

Mr. R. H. Millward (Reference Library, Croydon) urges the value of a chapter in Percy Muir's new book on *Book-collecting* called "How to use a bibliography." This does not describe its use from the librarian's point of view, of course, but it does go very fully into the collation of books and how it is shown in bibliographies; the sort of information which a bibliographical entry should show and how to translate it is dealt with very clearly and, in fact, the whole chapter, which describes several author bibliographies as well, is very readable and a pleasant change from the textbook treatment of this subject. Here I should like to disagree with Mr. Millward, for I have the greatest admiration for Cowley's "Bibliographical description and cataloguing" which, with McKerrow, I consider to be genuinely readable and enjoyable and written in a noble style.

The new French encyclopædia "Catholicisme: hier, aujourd'hui, demain" (Paris, Letouzey), says Miss Mary Dunbar (Cataloguing Dept., Westminster), of which two volumes have already been published, devotes several pages to the subject of libraries and library schools (part 5, pages 21-26). The history of the Vatican Library is given in some detail, together with shorter accounts of other collections dealing with philosophy and religion. Some interesting information is given about the School of Librarianship in Paris which was opened in 1924 with the co-operation of the American Library Association but compelled to close five years later when that organisation withdrew its support. Since 1935 it has operated under the auspices of the Institut Catholique and provides an intensive course of two academic years. The author of "*Bibliothèques populaires*"—parish libraries which are widespread throughout France but whose exact number is unknown—does not hesitate to give his own views on the importance of this training, adding that enthusiasm alone will not take its place.

Index to Progress

The A.A.L. film, the first of its kind dealing with Britain's public libraries, is now finished. Mr. Walter F. Broome is very conscious that some members who have generously helped him in the production have not

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received a written acknowledgment of their kind co-operation. This is due entirely to the fact that his time has been very severely restricted and he would like any such to take this note personally as one of sincere gratitude for all the valuable help that he has received up and down the country.

Students' Problems

A. J. WALFORD

IT HAS been pointed out to me that there is a more acceptable way of tackling Q.9 (d) of the December, 1949, Registration Classification paper than that shown on p. 48 of the March *Library Assistant*. The item was "The flora and fauna of the Mediterranean region: an examination of their influence on the rise of ancient civilizations." I considered this primarily a contribution to plant and animal geography, so violating Merrill's rule 15 ("place under the subject influenced"). It is a pity that Dewey was quoted in this respect, for Bliss, at least, has a happier fusion of the two subjects concerned. KTN has the useful heading "Natural resources in relation to human life," under the division Anthropogeography, and I cannot but think that this is the best solution.

Two further points arise regarding this question. First, the Ranganathan arrows in my original script were omitted by the printer and the allusion to Ranganathan loses practically all its point. Second, I made no attempt to give reasons either for choice of characteristics or the order of their application, as required in the question.

In the March, 1950, issue of the *Library Association Record* appears a notice regarding a revived Library Association venture—*Library Science Abstracts*. This service was begun in a small way in 1939; it will now appear as a quarterly bulletin, as from January/March, 1950. About fifty abstracts will appear in each quarterly issue, although this number will, no doubt be increased as the coverage of material grows. At the moment, about fifty periodicals are drawn upon; they include literary and educational, electrical, architectural and building journals as well as the professional journals. The editors will be pleased to consider any journals sent to them for inclusion.

At present, the abstracts are not classified but are arranged under headings: Bibliography; Literature (with reference to the Library Association Finals Examination Syllabus); General Theories of Librarianship; Public Libraries; Special Libraries; Work with Children; Hospital Libraries; Catalogues and Cataloguing; Classification Schemes; Information Services; etc. The annual index will be published in January of the following year.

I am indebted to Mr. R. Northwood Lock, of Croydon, for the above information. This new venture should tie up very well, so far as the student is concerned, with the now half-yearly appearance of *Library Literature* and the survey of non-public library material in the quarterly *Journal of Documentation* and *Aslib Information*.

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A.A.L. Correspondence Course Results

In reporting the results of the courses finishing in time for the November/December examinations, it is pleasing to note that the percentage of passes among students who have taken correspondence courses continues to compare favourably with the national pass level.

	No. of students	Completed course	Sat for exam. Nov., 1949	Passed	Failed	Referred	% of passes
ENTRANCE:							
(a) Nov. to Nov.	178	113 (63 %)	100	68	32	—	68
(b) Mar to Nov.	123	66 (54 %)	73	46	27	—	64
	<u>301</u>	<u>179 (59 %)</u>	<u>173</u>	<u>114</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>—</u>	<u>66</u>
Registration ..	444	185 (42 %)	181	94	83	4	52
Final	86	36 (42 %)	36	21	15	—	58
	<u>831</u>	<u>400 (48 %)</u>	<u>390</u>	<u>229</u>	<u>157</u>	<u>4</u>	<u>58</u>
TOTALS ..	831	400 (48 %)	390	229	157	4	58
L.A. Examination totals:			2631	1105	1522	4	41.9

Once again, therefore, it is proved that students undertaking correspondence courses, or similar organised tuition, always providing that they are conscientious in their studies, have a far better chance of success than the remainder of the students sitting for the examinations. Recent Library Association examination results seem to suggest that any extra help that a student can obtain without too great a financial outlay—and fees charged for A.A.L. correspondence courses are moderate—will almost certainly prove a sound investment.

L.J.S.

Correspondence

PRACTICAL CATALOGUING EXAMINATION.

Mr. L. Chandler, *Assistant, Fulham Public Libraries*, writes: "As from June, 1950, candidates for Group 'A' will be required to provide for their own use a copy of the classification scheme in which they wish to be examined, of the A.A. Code, and of either Sears and Munro or Library of Congress List of Subject Headings.' As a result of this categorical decree of the L.A., all's frenzy, riot and uncertainty. The A.A. Code is easily obtained, but the other two requirements certainly create a student's problem.

"Copies of Dewey will doubtless be in most demand, together with Sears and Munro. I have no doubt that a sufficient number of copies of each work are scattered throughout the libraries of the U.K., but whether each examinee can *borrow* a copy for the examination day gives rise to doubts and misgivings.

"It is obviously out of the question for the L.A. to tackle the Herculean task of collecting together and then distributing sufficient copies to each

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examination centre, but let us examine the student's angle. The problem begins in cases where several assistants from the same system are taking this paper; and for candidates not actively engaged in the profession, or perhaps at a Library School on leave of absence, the problem reaches nightmare proportions.

"Students' grants certainly do not often extend to the purchase of the permitted works, while the devaluation of the pound has increased prices.

"With the number of candidates increasing yearly, how can this valuable practical paper be ensured a safe passage through such operational difficulties?"

Books for Students

The Year's Work in Librarianship. Volume XII, 1939-1945. Edited for the Library Association by J. H. P. Pafford. 1949. (Library Association, 30s.; 22s. 6d. to members).

The Year's Work in Librarianship. Volume XIII, 1946. Edited for the Library Association by J. H. P. Pafford. 1949. (Library Association, 21s.; 16s. 6d. to members).

These two volumes are of first-rate value as source books on almost every phase of librarianship. We have had to wait an unconscionable time for them, but their worth is undiminished. It is only to be hoped that subsequent volumes will appear more promptly. The above volumes are all the more welcome because of the gap in the coverage of *Library Literature*, between 1943 and 1945. Mr. Pafford is now editor, in place of Dr. Esdaile, and the choice of contributions is impressive. The student will be amply repaid every time he dips into these volumes.

Inevitably, perhaps, there is a lack of balance. Miss Taylor's survey of literature on cataloguing for the years 1939-45 is squeezed into six pages, and there is not a superfluous word. Historical bibliography is splendidly covered for the same period, but it occupies 66 pages. Special libraries are given ample treatment in both volumes.

Two chapters may profitably be examined in detail. That on Printing and Illustration is allotted six pages in volume XII and none at all in volume XIII. What is worse, only three works are listed, without comments, in those six pages. This is surely amazing. The *Penrose annual*, F. W. Goudy's *Typologia* (1940), T. E. Griffith's *The technique of colour printing by lithography*, 1944), J. C. Tarr's *Printing to-day* (1945), Eric Gill's *An essay on typography* (1941)—these, surely, should have found some mention in the earlier volume? And what of *Design '46*, H. Whetton's *Practical printing and binding*, and I. Reiner's *Modern and historical typography* for the 1946 volume? (Whetton is mentioned under Binding, it is true).

The other chapter which seems to call for comment is that on Bibliography: Subject. The student is warned that continuations of annual bibliographies are not normally included. This seems to be a pity, for changes in scope are not infrequent and inclusion of such bibliographies seem well worth while both to the librarian and the student, particularly

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when the war years may have interrupted a sequence. One must not, then, take too literally such a statement as that which occurred in the 1946 volume (p. 190), beginning: "There are two fairly substantial U.S. publications in geology . . .," followed by the names *not* of the Nickles' *Bibliography and index of geology*, together with the *Annotated bibliography of economic geology* (both of them annuals), but of two works which need not bother the student.

A few omissions from the chapters on subject bibliography are possibly worth noting here:—

National Institute of Economic and Social Research. *Register of research in the social sciences* (1943-).

Nuffield College. *Select reading lists for colonial studies* (1946-).

Hicks, F. C. *Materials and methods of legal research, with bibliographical manual* (3rd ed., 1942).

Foreign affairs bibliography, vol. 2, 1932-1942 (1945).

Mellon, M. G. *Chemical publications, their nature and use* (2nd ed., 1940).

McColvin, E. R. *Painting: a guide to the best books* (1939).

British Film Institute. *Book list* (1945).

Harbage, A. B. *Annals of English drama, 975-1700* (1940).

Union Française des Organismes de Documentation. *Manuel de la recherche documentaire en France. Section Géographie*. (1946).

Grose, C. L. *Select bibliography of British history, 1660-1760* (1939).

The price of these two volumes is probably beyond the average student of librarianship, but I would urge him to see them as soon as possible and to thumb them often.

A.J.W.

Danton, J. Periam. *Education for Librarianship*. 1949. (Unesco, H.M. Stationery Office, 4s.).

This pamphlet of 98 pages is the first of a series of four such publications on public library work, to be issued by Unesco. The author, Dean of the School of Librarianship of the University of California, considers professional education mainly from the angle of the library school. Although American practice predominates and part-time training receives scant attention, this pamphlet will prove absorbingly interesting to all engaged in promoting professional education.

Of its eight chapters, those of greatest interest to English librarians deal with the creation of the library school, curriculum and methods of instruction, staff and recruitment. The author makes the point that the school of librarianship should not concern itself only with technical librarianship, and stresses the importance of attaching the school to a university. He goes on to say that many schools in Europe (including those of Great Britain) still place too much instructional emphasis on the "technical and general."

On staffing, the author says that the director of the school should be one of the most able and progressive young librarians in the country, and that the staff should be paid at a rate sufficient to attract the very best

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men in the profession. He continues, "if the school cannot do this, it may have to be content with a staff of second best persons . . . the inevitable result is obvious." Are we satisfied that the remuneration offered to full-time and part-time lecturers in this country is adequate to ensure first-class tuition in our schools and polytechnics?

One is tempted to quote numerous passages from this valuable little book. Perhaps it is as well that space prevents the reviewer detracting from the pleasure of other librarians, who will enjoy reading such a stimulating work. We welcome its addition to the ever-growing literature of librarianship, and look forward to the next three numbers in the series.

E.V.C.

Active Divisions

MENTION was made in an earlier number, of the forthcoming survey of the resources of the East Midland area. This has now been published and it is a worthy addition to the Centenary Year publications: of special interest is the list of firms, specialising in printing and other processes, who are prepared to accept visitors.

News of meetings held in the Devon & Cornwall, East Midland, Midland and Wessex Divisions has been received and the topics range far and wide. Wessex heard Mr. Horrocks of Reading talking of the need for "Ultrafax" and Microcards, now that libraries are faced with the problems of cramping economy and bulging bookstocks. Mr. Seymour Smith, at Torquay, gave a fascinating account of the development of libraries and librarianship in Germany and of the post-war situation. The Midland Division discussed the respective functions of L.A. branch and an A.A.L. division. In the East Midlands three speakers held forth on "After 100 years, what's wrong with public libraries?" Among many items, pleas were made for greater co-operation with the N.B.L. and for a charge to be made for the loan of books:—as a source of income and as an incentive to the staff to recruit prospective readers! Alarm was expressed at the possible influence of television on issues. Mr. Gardiner dealt with this point at Cirencester, in a humorous glimpse into the future. He foretold the rise and fall of television and the permanence of books.

In the March number of the North-Western News letter, there is an interesting article on "How to become an Interne Librarian." Besides being full of practical advice there are comments on the life in Rochester (U.S.). The following may be of interest to assistants generally: "The title 'interne' was originally used when a Canadian library student, having qualified, expressed a wish to work at R.P.L. The Civil Service Commission forbids the employment of non-citizens, but it was discovered that experts in a particular field could be employed if it were proved to be of advantage to the service and the community. The word 'interne' was borrowed from the medical profession, and is defined in Webster as being 'one serving in preparation for independent practice'."

G. P. RYE.

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Announcements

TUITION IN SPECIAL SUBJECTS, 1950-51 SESSION—LONDON AREA.

By agreement between the Schools concerned, part-time tuition in parts of the Registration and Final Examination will be offered as follows:—

At Spring Grove Polytechnic, Isleworth, Middlesex.

Registration Group Dvii (b) Literature of Science.

Final Part 3 (d) 1st Paper: Literature and Librarianship of Science.

3 (d) 2nd Paper: (i): Literature and Librarianship of Mathematical and Physical Sciences.

3 (d) 2nd Paper: (ii): Literature and Librarianship of Science: Chemistry and Chemical Technology.

3 (d) 2nd Paper: (iv): Literature and Librarianship of Science: Engineering and Building Technology.

At North-Western Polytechnic, Prince of Wales Road, London, N.W.

Registration Group Dvii (c) Literature of social and political ideas.

Final Part 3 (c) Literature and Librarianship of the Social Sciences.

3 (i) Literature and Librarianship of Linguistics and of History and Theory of Literature.

At School of Librarianship and Archives, University College, London, W.C.1.

(A limited number of students would be accepted in the courses normally provided for students for the Diploma).

Final Part 2 Library Organisation and Administration—

2nd Paper (b) University and College Libraries.

(c) Special Libraries and Information Bureaux.

The provision of classes in any of the above subjects is, of course, contingent upon a sufficient number of students being forthcoming to justify it. This is an advance notification, and all enquiries should be addressed to the director of the school concerned.

COMMONWEALTH SYMPOSIUM.

May 11th. At Chaucer House. 7 p.m. G. L. D. Meeting: "Commonwealth Symposium." Papers by Commonwealth members of the profession, at present in London, on libraries in their own countries. Chairman: Mr. L. R. McColvin.

SCHOOL OF LIBRARIANSHIP SPRING GROVE POLYTECHNIC, ISLEWORTH, MX.

Immediate applications essential for admission to full-time course (September 19th—July 10th) and also for Major Grants to Authorities concerned. Part-time courses also for Registration Finals, and Special Scientific groups. Forms from the Secretary.